

# Beaumont Camera Club new members “FAQ’s”

(Frequently Asked Questions)

- **Welcome to the Beaumont Camera Club.** We meet to share our photo experiences, learn from each other and our guest speakers, enter competitions and... to have FUN. Take a look at our web site [www.beaumontcameraclub.com](http://www.beaumontcameraclub.com) for more information about events, workshops and links to photo stuff.
- **How do I become a member?** Show us the money! Annual membership is dirt cheap! \$25 a year, \$35 a year for a family membership. Membership not only entitles you to the good chairs at our meetings, but you may also; enter the monthly competitions, enter all 3 of the events listed below and, as an added bonus, receive the secret link to our web site. What a STEAL, what a DEAL!
- **How do I enter the competition?** Members up to date on their dues can enter **prints** or **digital** files for projection (Limit 3 in each group per month). Print titles and digital files should be emailed to [Beaumontcameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:Beaumontcameraclub@gmail.com). Include your name, your titles for prints and digital files, and whether you are a novice or an advanced. In the Subject line of your email, include something like “July Entries”. Entries must be received prior to midnight on the Saturday before the competition. This gives us time to download, categorize and make the judging list before Monday night. Prints should be no smaller than a 5x7 and no larger than 16x20 including the mat. Mount your prints on something sturdy like thick mat board or ¼ Styrofoam, we will be placing it on an easel for judging.
- **How does the judging work?** On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evening of each month, we take a close look at each others work for the purpose of getting input from the advanced members to help the newer members gain knowledge of proper camera and composition techniques. We use 3 judges, 2 advanced and 1 novice. Each judge scores the image from 2 – 5 points and the points are totaled for the full score. Judges should primarily (80%) check for exposure, composition, correct use of shutter speed and aperture for the subject. Secondary consideration (20%) is also given to impact, artistic or story telling value.
- **What level should I choose? Novice or Advanced?**

We have 2 categories for monthly competition. Novice or Advanced. When a novice accumulates 50pts, they move to the Advanced group where they compete for points against the Advanced members. Where do you want to start? The choice is yours, Novice or Advanced. When you submit your titles, include the appropriate category.

  - 1st place = 4pts
  - 2nd place =3 pts
  - 3rd place =2 pts
  - 4th place =1 pt
  - 5th place =1 pt
  - Scores of 12 pts or more = 1 bonus pt

- **What is GSCCC – How are the photos selected?**

GSCCC is the [Gulf States Camera Club Council](#). We compete against the best Camera Clubs in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Images for this competition are selected based on their compliance with the GSCCC the rules, Maudie Henderson make these selections.

- **What are our annual events?** We have 3 annual events.

1. The **Peoples Choice Expo**, usually held at Parkdale Mall in February or March (members images judged by the public)
2. **Photography Show**, held at the Beaumont Art League, usually in July. (Entries open to the public, members entry fees are cheaper, judged by a professional photographer)
3. **End of Year Awards**, held at the club's December Christmas Party. (Members entries that placed during the year, judged by a professional photographer)

- **How can I participate in club activities?** We need everyone's help to keep the activities going so if you see something you want to be a part of, ask any member. Just like anything else, the more involved you are, the more you will get out of it.

- **Do you have to own an SLR or DSLR in order to participate?**

No. You don't even need a camera to be a member, but it helps. Point and shoot cameras are where most of us began. They captured our interest and compelled us to move up as we learned more and saw what others were doing. Today's point and shoot cameras are packed with many more features than their predecessors. So bring your film or digital SLR, your point and shoot or your camera phone. We learn, we grow.

- **Can you retouching the photos?**

Retouching is a part of the photography process. The camera doesn't "see" as well as your eye. We use filters, artificial light and custom settings on the camera before we capture the image but that's only half of the process. The darkroom or computer brings the image to life. The best retouching or editing is when no one can tell.

Retouching and editing images selected for PJ (photojournalism) is limited to exposure & contrast controls, color correction and cropping when used to enhance the image and not to alter or misrepresent the subject or situation.

- **Got a Question?** Send it to me at ([dwain@photobox54.com](mailto:dwain@photobox54.com))

- Help us ask/answer questions new members may have.